

main image portion 5 and hanging portion 7 sections, may be of any suitable dimensions so long as the indicia is clearly visible to facilitate efficient and improved reading and learning.

[0037] The indicia of the embodiment in FIG. 1 may relate to music. In the illustrative embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the main image portion 5 contains music notation 16 which extends horizontally across substantially the entire front surface 9. Notably, the music notation 16 is not arranged separately within each panel 8 but, rather, is one composite image. In other words, the indicia extends continuously across the first folds 17 and the second folds 19, with no discontinuity in the indicia between the panels 8. The music notation 16 can be oriented in any way but is shown in FIG. 1 as to be read left to right and top to bottom when the learning device 1 is hung from the apertures 18. Common forms of music notation are standard notation, i.e., notes and other symbols placed on a music staff, and tablature notation. However, any form of music notation may be used. The front surface 9 may have the music notation 16 for one entire song. This enables a musician to learn and play a particular song from start to finish without ever removing a hand from the instrument.

[0038] Referring to FIG. 4, the back surface 11 of the main image portion 5 displays indicia arranged separately within each panel 8 on the back surface 11 such that no indicia extends from one panel to another. The music indicia on the back surface 11 may relate to the song and the artist of the song displayed on the front surface 9. That is, one panel 8 may contain photographs of an artist with a short biography while another panel contains a transcribed guitar solo. Other examples of such indicia include, but are not limited to, a transcription of a guitar solo for the song, a brief music lesson applicable to the song, photographs of the artist, an album cover, the guitar and amplifier used by the artist when recording the song, biographical information on the artist and interesting facts about how and when the song was written. As mentioned above, it should, of course, be appreciated that the indicia is not limited to music notation and other music-related indicia but, rather, encompasses any type of indicia. For example, other types of indicia include, without limitation, letters and words of the alphabet or math, chemistry or physics equations for learning in the classroom environment and/or practicing at home.

[0039] As shown in FIGS. 1-4, the learning device 1 is transformable between a poster configuration 2 and a self-standing configuration 4. Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, the main image portion 5 folds about the first folds 17 and the hanging portion 7 folds about the edge fold 12 to cause the front surface 9 of the bottom row R1 to be in contact with the back surface 15 of the hanging portion 7. Although FIG. 3 illustrates the occurrence of planar contact between the two surfaces, any type of contact that achieves the objectives as described herein is possible. For instance, edge contact between the front surface 9 and back surface 15 may be releasably maintained if a suitable fastening device 14 is provided.

[0040] A fastening device 14 is used to releasably maintain the contact between the front surface 9 and the back surface 15. In the illustrative embodiment, magnets are positioned between the two sheets 3 on the main image portion 5 and the hanging portion 7. The magnets are oriented with like magnetic poles facing in the same direction, i.e., all north poles facing toward the front surfaces 9

and 13 or all north poles facing toward the back surfaces 11 and 15, so that opposite magnetic poles are facing each when the learning device 1 is folded. For example, if all north poles are facing toward the front surfaces 9 and 13 and the main image portion 5 and the hanging portion 7 are folded as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the north poles of the magnets in the main image portion 5 will be facing the south poles of the magnets in the hanging portion 7. Because it is well-known in the art that opposite poles attract, the two magnets will be pulled into indirect contact, i.e., through two sheets 3, to releasably hold the front surface 9 and the back surface 15 together. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the main image portion 5 may have two magnets positioned in the bottom corners of the bottom row R1 so as to align with two magnets in the hanging portion 7 upon formation of the self-standing configuration 4.

[0041] The surfaces of the learning device 1 may also be fastened using a wide variety of fastening devices 14 other than magnets, including but not limited to, hook-and-loop fasteners, e.g., as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 2,717,437 incorporated herein by reference, tab-slit joints, adhesives, snaps, clips, hooks, latches, locks, folds or and any other fastening devices 14 suitable for maintaining releasable contact between the surfaces of the learning device 1. As such, the fastening devices 14 may be fixed on the outside surfaces, i.e., the front surface 9 and back surface 11 of the main image portion 5 and the front surface 13 and back surface 15 of the hanging portion 7, such as when the learning device 1 is constructed of only one sheet 3. Moreover, the learning device 1 may include, without limitation, holes, eyelets, slits or some other type of aperture to accommodate hooks, latches, locks and other similar fastening devices 14. The fastening devices 14 may be placed at any location on the learning device 1 so long as contact is releasably maintained as shown in the foregoing drawings and described herein.

[0042] The self-standing configuration 4 shown in FIG. 3 is triangular and outwardly displays the back surface 11 of the bottom row R1 and the back surface 11 of the top row R3. The structural shape of the self-standing configuration 4 may, of course, vary depending on the number of rows contained on the main image portion 5. The self-standing configuration 4 can also be easily flipped to outwardly display any two rows of the main image portion 5. In one embodiment, the back surface 11 displays indicia relating to music that is separately arranged within each panel 8. For example, the bottom row R1 shown in FIG. 3 may contain a guitar solo transcription in one panel, an artist biography in another panel and a related music lesson in the third panel. Notably, the indicia contained within each panel is oriented in the same direction so as to always display the indicia in a right-side-up direction when the learning device 1 is flipped to view another row of panels 8. The self-standing configuration 4 may, alternatively, be formed with the front surface 9 outwardly displayed or with the back surface 11 outwardly displaying music notation that extends across substantially the entire back surface 11.

[0043] Advantageously, the self-standing configuration 4 displays indicia in a substantially upright view and eliminates the need to use an external support device, such as a music stand, when the poster configuration 2 is not in use. The self-standing configuration 4 is useful for learning at a desk, while sitting on a couch or bed or during transit in a car, plane, train, bus or other mode of transportation. This